



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

F 93

FARMERS OF CANADA!

You are told that you are not prosperous; that successive bad harvests have borne heavily on you; that the McKinley tariff has stopped your sale of hay, barley, etc., to the United States; and that all this is to be remedied for you by this new nostrum of the Liberals called "Unrestricted Reciprocity."

This new policy of the Opposition—call it what you will—"Unrestricted Reciprocity," "Commercial Union," "Annexation," for all these three are one and the same thing, means that to secure a market in the United States you are to place yourselves and your property under the same conditions as the farmers of the United States now are placed.

What is the condition of the farmers of the United States—are they better off than you in any way? This is a vitally important question for you. Read and study the following evidence, supplied by Americans themselves as to the States adjoining your borders.

VERMONT.

Mr. A. B. Valentine, Commissioner appointed by the State, reports:

September 10th, 1890.

"More than 1,000 farms in Vermont, formerly under cultivation, are now abandoned for farming purposes, one-half of which have buildings thereon, in fair condition." "In some cases, nearly

whole Townships may be classified under this head." "Official reports shew that a large portion are of good soil, not worn out, and can be made as fruitful as lands near by."

"Another class of farms, now occupied, could be bought at or about the same price as those unoccupied."

"It is safe to say—that of the lands under consideration—there are 500,000 acres, or about ten per cent. of the arable acreage of the State."

Will Unrestricted Reciprocity do more for Canada than for Vermont ?

NEW YORK.

The New York State Agent reported eighteen months ago :—
 "There are large numbers of farms that were purchased ten years ago and mortgaged which would not now sell for more than the face of the mortgages, owing to the depreciation of the farm lands, which on an average is 33 per cent. in ten years. Probably one-third of the farms in the State would not sell for more than the cost of the buildings and other improvements owing to this shrinkage. Thirty per cent. of the farms in this State are mortgaged."

Will Unrestricted Reciprocity do more for Canada than for New York ?

MICHIGAN.

The Labour Commissioner writes that the mortgages on the farms of that State act like

"A mammoth sponge"

upon the labour of the owners. The annual interest charge on farms alone he says is \$4,636,235.

Will Unrestricted Reciprocity do more for Canada than for Michigan ?

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The Commissioner for this State gives particulars of over 356 abandoned farms, and says :—

“ In most instances these farms have not been abandoned because the soil has become exhausted or from the lack of natural fertility, but from various causes appearing in the social and economic history of the State.”

The Springfield *Republican* says :—

“ Agriculture as a fairly profitable industry is practically unknown in a great many sections of New England.”

“ Perhaps a majority of farmers are getting little more than a plain livelihood.”

“ Farming property generally has been greatly depreciated, and deserted or mortgaged farms, especially in the hill townships, are getting to be the rule rather than exception.”

—Springfield (Mass.) *Republican*.

Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for the United States of 1888 :—

“ A great many who hold medium sized farms, say ranging from 100 to 200 acres, find it now impossible to continue cultivating them after the old methods and realize in addition to taxes and current expense a sum equal to the fair interest upon the capital invested.”

Will Unrestricted Reciprocity do more for Canada than for New Hampshire ?

MASSACHUSETTS.

The Secretary of the Board of Agriculture for the year 1889, says : “ There is great agricultural depression at present in New England ; the vocation of farming is here under a dark cloud.

The farmer must toil harder and for lower profits ; moreover despite his labours, he often sees his land decrease in value ; hundreds of farms in New England are to-day worth scarcely half what they were some years ago."

Will Unrestricted Reciprocity do more for Canada than for Massachusetts ?

NEW JERSEY.

Report of the Bureau of Statistics for 1889.—" The preliminary report of the State Board of Agriculture, which lately investigated the causes of the depression of the farming interests of New Jersey, estimated that 65 per cent. of the farms are mortgaged."

The counsel of a great Life Insurance Company is quoted in the same report as saying : " I am not aware of a single large corporation that is now willing to loan to any considerable extent on farming property in this State."

Will Unrestricted Reciprocity do more for Canada than for New Jersey ?

ILLINOIS.

Report Bureau of Labour Statistics for Illinois, for 1888 says :

Total number of acres mortgaged..... 34,575,903

Average value of improved lands per acre... \$38.66

Present incumbrance in 1887 per acre..... \$18.23

Will Unrestricted Reciprocity do more for Canada than for Illinois ?

MICHIGAN.

The Commissioner of the Michigan Bureau of Statistics says: in his annual report, 1888: " The farmer, the mechanic, and the labouring man, **WHOSE PROPERTY IS ALL IN SIGHT, AND UPON WHOM THE BURDEN OF TAXATION**

"IS MOST OPPRESSIVE, CANNOT ESCAPE. The non-resident capitalist who holds mortgages does escape.

Will Unrestricted Reciprocity do more for Canada than for Michigan ?

WESTERN STATES.

According to estimates made by Mr. Harris, a Chicago banker, in 1887, the mortgage indebtedness of the farmers in the ten Western States is as follows :—

Ohio	350,000,000
Indiana.....	175,000,000
Illinois	200,000,900
Wisconsin.....	100,000,000
Michigan	125,000,000
Minnesota.....	70,000,000
Iowa.....	100,000,000
Nebraska.....	25,000,000
Kansas	50,000,000
Missouri.....	100,000,000

Will Unrestricted Reciprocity do more for Canada than for the Western States ?

PENNSYLVANIA.

Gerard C. Brown, of York county, Penn., said :—

" Our wheat has averaged below \$1 per bushel for some years ; **BELOW COST OF PRODUCTION.** It is now, I believe, 74 or 76 cents ; corn about 36 or 40 cents. Fattening cattle, once a profitable venture, as **DECLINED** wonderfully. It is rare for feeders to get market price for corn fed to fatten stock. Tobacco raising no longer pays, the risk and outlay of so expensive a crop being considered. Dairying, to which many turned for refuge, even when, as is the case in our neighbourhood, it is conducted under the best known system, with the most approved machinery and

appliances is **NOT REMUNERATIVE** : creamery stock too often dead stock."

DESERTED FARM BUILDINGS.

Again, the same witness gives the following picture of the ruin and decay amongst the farmers :—

" On one main road from Lowell to Windham, 12 miles I counted **SIX DESERTED SETS OF FARM BUILDINGS**, besides several which have already gone to ruin. Fields and pastures are grown to wood ; houses in which, a generation ago, sturdy manhood and womanhood flourished are gone to utter ruin ; in many school districts there not sufficient children to have a school. The whole appearance is one of **POVERTY AND DECAY** ; to ride along our country roads is extremely depressing.

DEPRECIATED VALUES.

Take another witness called before the same committee, Mr. Victor E. Piollet, of Bradford county, Penn., who being asked to state the value of farm lands now as compared with six years ago, stated (page 856) :—

" There is a **DEPRECIATION OF MORE THAN 50 PER CENT. ALL OVER THE COUNTRY** outside of the cities and manufacturing towns where land is very valuable for suburban residences and building purposes."

Will Unrestricted Reciprocity do more for Canada than for Pennsylvania ?

CONNECTICUT.

" In 45 agricultural towns in Connecticut the decrease of wealth in the 11 years 1865-76 amounted to \$1,893,172 ; between 1876 and 1886 the decrease ran up to \$2,741,520. Out of 603 farmers interviewed, 378 show a yearly loss. **AS WE TRAVEL**

AWAY FROM NEW ENGLAND TO MORE WESTERN LANDS WE MEET THE SAME CRY—THE DECLINE OF AGRICULTURE. The report on the financial affairs of the farmers of Nebraska (1887-88) shows that of 215 farmers **OVER 50 PER CENT. STATED THAT THEY WERE LOSING MONEY."**

Will Unrestricted Reciprocity do more for Canada than for Connecticut ?

A STARTLING PICTURE.

Following up this question of mortgages, Elliott gives the following picture :

" The picture given of life on Saturday in a Kansas town is certainly a startling one: 'It matters not how dull the town has been during the week, on Saturday the streets are crowded with people; on that day **CHATTELS ARE SOLD TO SATISFY THE OVERDUE MORTGAGES.** At present these sales are numerous in the West, outside of the corn belt, and a very large portion of these do not realize sufficient to pay the mortgages. Teams, waggons or horned stock, which six months ago were considered ample security for a loan of from \$100 to \$150, frequently **FETCH AT PUBLIC AUCTION 25 PER CENT. LESS THAN THE PRICE OF THE MORTGAGES.**' "

Judge Nott of the United States Court of Claims has written a pamphlet entitled "A Good Farm for Nothing," dealing with the decline in Agriculture and Farm Values in **NEW ENGLAND.** In this he says:—

" He—the New England farmer—cannot compete in cereals with the West—in fruit and vegetables, with Delaware and New Jersey—in cattle, with men whose herds run summer and winter on the free ranches of the government—in wool with the

unhoused flocks of **TEXAS** and **CALIFORNIA**, of New Zealand and Australia—in dressed beef with **ARMOUR'S SYNDICATE.**"

Farmers of Canada having read [foregoing evidence are you prepared to vote for **UNRESTRICTED RECIPROCITY**. Any advantage which the American demand may give you with one hand will be more than taken back in the shape of municipal taxation, State taxation and Direct taxation. The Americans will see that you pay all these; in short, that there shall be on your part complete surrender to American terms and conditions and tariffs. The issues are plain, Messrs. Laurier and Cartwright will bring upon you both political and commercial subjection to Washington.

The Conservatives are fighting for reciprocity as in 1854, based upon an honest and independent preservation of our national life.

Which of these is most in accord with your interest—to say nothing of your Honour and Freedom?

This momentous question you will have to answer at the polls in a few days.

Vote for Laurier and the Liberals and you harness yourselves and your children to a condition of ruin and decay.

